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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Committee on Commodities
Ad hoc Review Meeting on Bauxite
Geneva, 13 May 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda and suggestions for the organization of work

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Discussion of issues for improved producer-consumer co-operation:
   - (a) Exchange of information
   - (b) Market transparency
   - (c) Promotion of consumption
   - (d) Exchange of information on new and available technologies
   - (e) Research and development
   - (f) Human resources development
   - (g) Environment
   - (h) Any other issues
4. Follow-up action
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Ad hoc Review Meeting.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Pursuant to paragraph 77 of the Final Act of UNCTAD VII, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD has held comprehensive consultations during the past three years with producers and consumers of bauxite, both separately and together. As a result of these consultations, he is convening this Ad hoc Review Meeting on Bauxite.

Item 1: Election of officers

The Ad hoc Review Meeting may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, in accordance with normal practice. In this event, one position would be held by a producing country and the other by a consuming country.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisonal agenda, as reproduced in section I above, has been drawn up taking into account the views expressed by producers and consumers in the consultations as well as in subsequent discussions with the secretariat. Suggestions concerning the organization of work are contained in section III.

Item 3: Discussion of issues for improved producer-consumer co-operation

The order of issues listed under this agenda item does not imply any priority among them. To assist discussions on this item, two background documents prepared by the secretariat are being submitted to the Ad hoc Review Meeting, namely: "Recent market and industry developments" (TD/B/C.1/RM/BAUXITE/2), and "Bauxite, alumina, and aluminium statistics 1969-1989" (TD/B/C.1/RM/BAUXITE/3). With respect to sub-items (a) to (h) under this item, the following briefly describes the current situation.

(a) Exchange of information

There is currently no regular exchange of information between producers and consumers on production, consumption, stocks, capacities or in general on all outputs and inputs of the industry.

(b) Market transparency

Statistics on the aluminium industry are relatively detailed and publicly available. For bauxite and alumina, however, information is less readily available, in particular as regards prices. The Meeting may wish to consider the accuracy of existing statistics and what action might be taken to improve their comprehensiveness.

(c) Promotion of consumption

The impressive growth in aluminium consumption has been largely due to the identification of new end-uses and product development, while specific consumption promotion efforts other than at the enterprise level have played a minor role in the aluminium industry. The Meeting may wish to consider whether access might be sought to funds in the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities for financing projects aimed at promoting consumption.

(d) Exchange of information on new and available technologies

Technological development in the industry has focused on improving productivity through increasing the scale of operations, reductions in energy consumption and improved production processes. Technological development has also concerned ways and means of reducing negative impact on the environment. The Meeting may wish to consider how to facilitate an exchange of information on technological developments between producers and consumers.

(e) Research and development

Large research and development expenditures in the industry are devoted to achieving cost reductions at the various stages of production and to developing new products leading to increased aluminium consumption in various end-uses such as transport and packaging. Again, the Meeting may wish to consider whether there are possibilities for research and development projects to be financed through the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities.

(f) Human resources development

The improvement of the capabilities of the human resources engaged in the industry is of mutual interest to both producers and consumers, given the need to raise productivity and to enhance the competitive position of aluminium vis-à-vis other materials. The Meeting may wish to explore how information on training opportunities can be disseminated to developing-country producers.

(g) Environment

Environmental concerns are prominent at all stages of the industry. Such concerns relate to rehabilitation of mined-out areas, disposal of waste material from alumina production, emissions of fluoride from aluminium smelting and recycling of aluminium scrap. Workers' health and safety is an important issue at all stages of the production process.

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The Meeting has five working days available to it from 13 to 17 May 1991. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD will open the Meeting. Following the election of officers and the adoption of the agenda, individual delegations may wish to make general statements. It is suggested that Monday, 13 May, be allocated for these purposes.

With regard to item 3 of the agenda, the Meeting may wish to conduct its deliberations in an informal working group. It is suggested that Tuesday, 14 May, to the morning of Thursday, 16 May, be devoted to this item. It is envisaged that presentations on the various issues under item 3 of the agenda will be made by representatives from Governments, industrial advisers, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. A list of the presentations that will be made is given in the annex. The proceedings of the informal working group would be summarized by the Chairman at the closing plenary meeting on Friday, 17 May, when the report of the Meeting is adopted (item 6).

It is suggested that item 4 on follow-up action be discussed on the afternoon of Thursday, 16 May.

READEX FICHE

Annex

LIST OF PRESENTATIONS */

Exchange of information

"State of the industry", by a representative of the secretariat of the International Bauxite Association

"The importance of recycling of aluminium in total aluminium consumption", by Mr. Eliasco, expert adviser to the Commission of the European Economic Community

Market transparency

"The IPAI statistical system", by Mr. Alan Payne, Secretary-General, and Mr. James Reeve, secretariat of the International Primary Aluminium Institute

"The operation of the LME", by Mr. Martin Abbott, Director of Marketing, the London Metal Exchange

"Market transparency from the viewpoint of a bauxite and alumina exporting country", by Mr. Dennis Morrison, Senior Director, Strategic Planning, Economics and Projects, Jamaica Bauxite Institute

Promotion of consumption

"Bauxite - its uses other than for metal", by Mr. James Ramsahoye, BIDCO, Guyana

"Promotion of aluminium consumption and of further processing in developing countries", by a representative of the secretariat of the International Bauxite Association

Exchange of information on new and available technologies

"Technology sales", by a representative of Pechiney

Environment

"Environmental aspects of bauxite mining", by Mr. Alan Payne, Secretary-General, and Mr. James Reeve, secretariat of the International Primary Aluminium Institute

"Environment protection and workers' health and safety in the Hungarian aluminium industry", by Dr. Joszef Varga, Hungarian Aluminium Corporation

"Recycling of aluminium beverage cans - environmental and economic aspects" by Mr. Rolf Andersson, President, Returpack AB, Sweden.

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*/ It should be noted that the exact titles of several of the presentations were not yet known at the time of preparation of the agenda. There may also be changes as regards the number and content of presentations.